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BULLETIN

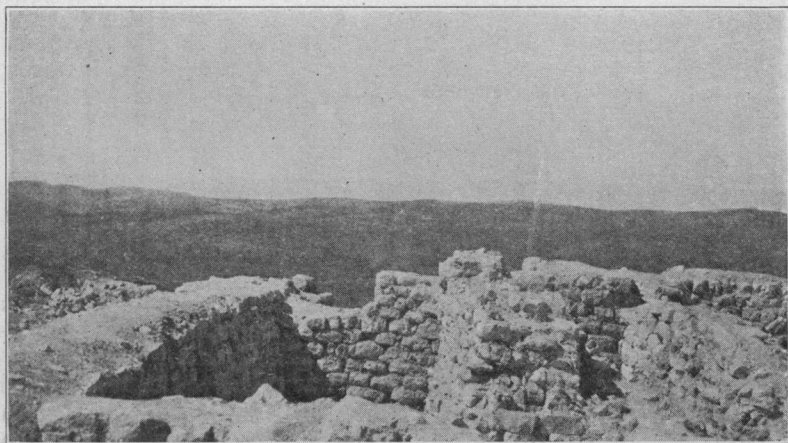
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A VIEW OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT TELL EL-FUL.

IN MEMORIAM JAMES BUCHANAN NIES

In the death of the Rev. James Buchanan Nies, Ph.D., the American Schools of Oriental Research have sustained a great loss. He was not only one of their chief patrons, but his activities in their interests were of the greatest importance.

Dr. Nies was born in Newark, New Jersey, November 22, 1856. He received the degree of B.A. from Columbia in 1882, M.A. in 1887, and Ph.D. in 1888. He was graduated from the General Theological Seminary

in 1885. He became a Priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1886, and until 1907 was active in various cures.

In 1891 he married Miss Jane Dows Orr, daughter of the late Alexander Orr, Esq., of New York, who, following the interests of her husband, became not only a student of modern Arabic, but a patroness of Oriental research.

Dr. Nies was early attracted to the study of anthropology. His travels in company with Mrs. Nies in the Orient, in South America, and in other parts of the world, gave him an excellent opportunity to study certain problems at the sources. The knowledge of the beliefs, practices, and modes of thought of peoples which he acquired in this way prepared him for the part he played in science. Occasional papers in this field of research were read before the American Anthropological Society, of which he was a member for many years.

In receiving his theological instruction Dr. Nies became interested in the study of Hebrew and Arabic. In more recent years he began to devote himself assiduously to the study of a collection of Sumerian inscriptions which he had secured in Bagdad, and which he subsequently published in a substantial volume, entitled *Ur Dynasty Tablets*. Only a year ago another volume appeared, which had been written jointly with Dr. C. E. Keiser of the Yale Babylonian Seminary, entitled *Historical, Religious and Economic Texts and Antiquities*. This monumental volume is generally regarded as a very important contribution to Assyriology. Besides these volumes of texts he read occasional papers before the American Oriental Society, of which he was President last year. Dr. Nies was largely a self-taught Assyriologist. In his travels and studies in anthropology he became acquainted with primitive habits, which with his peculiar gifts enabled him to explain many hitherto difficult words and phrases, and to advance his science materially. One of the ways his genius especially showed itself was in determining the original pictures of the cuneiform glyphs.

Dr. Nies will always be remembered as a great patron of Oriental learning. In the week preceding the beginning of the world war, he made it known to the writer of this brief sketch that Mrs. Nies had agreed to erect the long-desired building for the Jerusalem School. Owing to the uncertainties of the situation after the war had begun, and before any steps had been taken in the matter, it seemed wise to Dr. and Mrs. Nies to allow the matter to remain *in statu quo*. Shortly after peace had been declared at the close of the war Mrs. Nies was called to her rest. She had left the matter of building the School entirely in the hands of her husband. Last autumn after the title to the School's land in Jerusalem had been transferred to the Trustees, Dr. Nies himself took steps to make it possible to erect the building which he desired to be known as the Jane Dows Nies Memorial.

In April of this year, although urged by his physician to remain at home, with the preliminary plans for the building in his possession he proceeded to Jerusalem to arrange for a final draft of the plans, and to begin the construction of the edifice. A few weeks after he reached Jerusalem, his disease was aggravated and he also was called to his rest, June 18. His body was brought home and the burial services were held at Christ Church and at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, on July 13. His plans, however, in the interests of the School, will be fully realized, for he has bequeathed \$50,000 for the building. He also bequeathed the sum of \$10,000 as a pub-

lication fund to publish researches conducted by the School. The residue of his estate, after the decease of the living legatees, will be given to the School in Bagdad.

Dr. Nies was one of the protagonists in the causes of the School of Jerusalem. About the time of its inception, in 1900, he undertook a laborious campaign to raise a large endowment for Palestine exploration, and while the effort was not successful, except for a small sum which is now being applied to that object, his enthusiasm was a great stimulus to the cause of the School.

Dr. Nies's death is most keenly felt by his colleagues on the Board of Trustees. He made all his friends by his gentle kindness. His practical wisdom was of indispensable value in our councils. And the self-effacing modesty which was his and Mrs. Nies's characteristic will be remembered by all when we think of them as the greatest benefactors of the Schools.

ALBERT T. CLAY.

DR. NIES'S BEQUESTS TO THE SCHOOLS

The following are the articles of the will of Dr. Nies applying to the Schools:

*"Seventh:—*I hereby give and bequeath the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) to the AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH, INC., to be applied by them to the erection of a suitable building to house the American School for Oriental Study and Research, located at Jerusalem, Palestine.

"It is my specific desire and wish that this sum shall not be available until the aforesaid School shall have secured a clear title, in its own name, to the lands which it now holds at Jerusalem, and shall have secured a Firman or other authority from the Government of Palestine or its successor that will assure to it the privilege of continuing its work in Palestine. And it is a condition of this bequest that there be placed upon the building to be erected as aforesaid, a bronze tablet stating that the building has been erected by JAMES B. NIES to the memory of JANE DOWS NIES. Any advances of money which shall have been made by me during my lifetime to said AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH, INC., towards the erection of the building provided to be erected at Jerusalem as aforesaid are to be deducted from the Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) bequeathed as aforesaid.

*"Eighth:—*I hereby give and bequeath to my Trustees hereinafter named, the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.), in trust, nevertheless, for the following uses and purposes, to wit:—To invest and re-invest the same and to pay over the income thereof semi-annually to the AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH, INC., for the use of its School at Jerusalem, Palestine, and to be applied by it for the publication of the results of their investigations and to be known as the JANE DOWS NIES PUBLICATION ENDOWMENT.

*"Sixteenth:—*Upon the decease of the last of my brothers me surviving, all that portion of my residuary estate remaining undisposed of after the payment of the legacies above referred to, I direct my trustees hereinafter named, to invest and re-invest and pay over the income thereof semi-annually to the AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH, INC., for the use of its School at Bagdad, Mesopotamia, to be applied by said School for excavations and the publication of the results thereof."